IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Hisorshi NISHIMOTO

Serial No.: To be assigned

Group Art Unit: Unassigned

Filed: December 28, 2000

Examiner: Unassigned

For:

OPTICAL NODE DEVICE AND SIGNAL SWITCHING AND

CONNECTION METHOD

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Before examination of the above-identified application, please amend the application as

follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND the claims as follows:

Claim 3,

line 1, change "3" to --2--.

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is submitted to improve the form of the specification as originally-filed, and to correct a typographical error.

It is respectfully requested that this Preliminary Amendment be entered in the above-

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referenced application.

If any further fees are required in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

By:

James D. Halsey, Jr.

Registration No. 22,729

700 Eleventh Street, N.W. Suite 500 Washington, D.C. 20001 (202) 434-1500

Date: December 28, 2000